TH
25 AUG 58
C.R. 18

Wigan Rural District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1957

Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :
J. Schofield, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
Mrs. M. M. Tarbuck

Councillors :
C. J. Ainscough
Mrs. E. A. Brown
I. Cropper
N. Gaskell
J. H. Gill
W. A. Rigby
W. Thompson

Clerk :
Robert Gaskell, F.C.C.S., F.A.C.C.A.

Staff Public Health Department :
Medical Officer of Health :
G. H. Potter, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :
J. Holding

Additional Public Health Inspector :
J. R. Swift

Water Inspector :
H. Carrington

10, Bridgeman Terrace,

Wigan.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1957, compiled, as in previous years, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Public Health Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER.

July, 1958.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area : 11,695 acres.

Population (Census 1951)	8,213
Estimated mid-1957 (Registrar-General)	9,050
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1957— according to Rate Book	2,857
Rateable Value	£76,616
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£313

The chief industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, stone quarrying, glue manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, brick manufacture, malt extract manufacture and linoleum manufacture. Certain districts are mainly residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	101	75	176
(Illegitimate)	1	1	2
TOTAL	102	76	178
Still Births (Legitimate)	2	3	5
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	3	5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : (Legitimate)	4	1	5
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	1	5
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age : (Legitimate)	1	1	2
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	2

Deaths	90
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1957	19.1
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1957	12.2

TABLE I.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality. Total		Infant Mortality. Neo-Natal	
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1957	178	19.1	90	12.2	5	27	Nil.	Nil.	5	28	2	11
Year 1956	157	18.4	98	13.3	1	6	Nil.	Nil.	8	51	6	38
,, 1955	149	18.0	77	9.9	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	8	54	7	47
,, 1954	113	13.9	110	14.4	7	58	Nil.	Nil.	5	44	4	35
,, 1953	133	16.3	87	10.8	4	29	Nil.	Nil.	4	30	4	30
,, 1952	117	14.6	71	8.9	4	33	Nil.	Nil.	6	51	4	34
Avge. 5 yrs 1952-1956	—	16.2	—	11.4	—	25	—	Nil.	—	46	—	36

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and the number of Deaths from each cause in 1957, with comparative figures for 1956 :—

TABLE II.

	No. of Deaths.			
	1957		1956	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	1	—	1
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	1	—
Cancer	6	3	5	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	1	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	5	5	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	3	13	—
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	1	3
Other Heart Disease	12	14	7	11
Other Circulatory Disease	3	2	1	2
Influenza	2	—	4	—
Pneumonia	4	4	—	2
Bronchitis	3	—	3	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	2	—	2	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	2	1	5	5
Suicide and Other Violent Causes	1	2	5	5
	50	40	54	44

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

Eleven bacteriological examination reports on samples of water were received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year, two of which were found to be unsatisfactory. One chemical analysis was received from the County Analyst, which was found to be unsatisfactory.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The year has been marked by shortages of water in Shevington, Wrightington and Dalton, relieved by the temporary additional supply of colliery water which was unsatisfactory in quality.

Work has, however, commenced on Part I of the Council's Water Supply Extensions and Reconstruction Scheme designed to serve Dalton, Shevington and Wrightington with a new bulk supply of upland surface water from Wigan County Borough and which will also make the good the deficiency of Parbold's artesian borehole supply.

Following completion of Part I of the Scheme, the Council intend to proceed with Part II, which will extend water mains to all areas which are still without a public supply.

The existing underground source of boreholes in Wrightington will be retained as an emergency supply but the springs and colliery supply are to be abandoned. The bulk supply from Standish Urban District Council will be retained for the village of Crooke and the bulk supply to Anderton's Mill from Chorley Rural District Council discontinued.

The complete Scheme will cost about £125,000.

TABLE III.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish	Number of Dwelling houses	Supplied by Wigan R.D.C.	Supplied by Other Authorities	No. of Houses without public Water Supply
Dalton	158	122	8 (Up Holland) U.D.C.	28
Haigh	251	235	15(Aspull U.D.C.)	1
Parbold	324	319	—	5
Shevington	1,371	1,371	—	—
Worthington	48	1	23(Standish U.D.C.) 3(Chorley R.D.C.) 13(Wigan C.B.C.)	8
Wrightington	841	795	9 (Wrightington Hospital) 1(Chorley R.D.C.)	36
Totals	2,993	2,843	72	78

Water Consumption Table

Parish	Estimated "Water" Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of "Water" Population.		
		Unmetered	Metered	Supplied to other Districts	Unmetered	Metered	Total
Dalton	400	12,550	8,859	....	31.3	22.1	53.4
Haigh	750	21,600	26,630	Aspull 32,930	30.1	36.8	66.9
Parbold	1,000	26,610	4,531	....	26.6	4.5	31.1
Shevington	4,500	91,790	11,270	....	20.4	2.5	22.9
Wrightington	3,000	49,063	33,951	Bispham5,459	16.3	11.3	27.6
Total	9,650	201,613	85,241	....	20.88	9.04	29.92

Average Daily Total, ... 286,454

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1957) —

Number of Privy Middens	181
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	300
Number of Pail Closets	560
Number of Freshwater Closets	2,290
Number of Dry Ashpits	20
Number of Moveable Ashbins	2,400
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	2,740

During the year 4 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s ; 10 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c.s ; 14 moveable ash-bins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

The Rural District Council make grants towards the cost of conversions to w.c.s.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 10 workmen are engaged on Refuse Collection.

Pails are emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptying Vehicle.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

A special Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is engaged on regular cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks. Tipping is carried out on agricultural land when suitable, or otherwise into the public sewer.

SEWERAGE.

The Council have submittted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government a Scheme for sewering the Mossy Lea area of the Parish of Wrightington and a Scheme for the sewering of the Parish of Parbold is now in course of preparation.

With the prospect of an adequate supply of improved quality water throughout the District, the Council intend to carry out sewering of other areas when an outfall is available.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the District.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Three houses were found to be infected and were sprayed with D.D.T.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

1.—Number of rodent operatives employed—1 full-time.

2.—Action relating to rodent control during the year ended 31st December, 1957 :

	Type of Property.		
	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a) No. of Properties in district	2,857	53	132
(b) No. of Properties inspected	590	38	97
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	1,000	122	142
(d) No. of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
Rats –major	—	10	—
–minor	85	13	12
Mice –major	—	—	—
–minor	21	5	14
(e) No. of infested properties treated	106	28	26
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	110	33	28
(g) No. of " Block " control schemes carried out	4	—	—

(h) Any other action—10% test baiting of Council sewers.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area. The stocks are inspected regularly and the conditions are satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES.

There is one Camping Site in the Rural District.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of the Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The Water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.—1957 was the first year since the War that no housing schemes were in progress, but the Council have accepted tenders for the erection of four old people's bungalows at Parbold and twenty-four houses and eight flats at Shevington for slum clearance purposes.

Private housing has continued at a fairly steady rate and whilst contributing to the general needs of the District is also attracting residents from outside the District.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

	Houses.	Flats.
Traditional permanent houses :		
(i) By the Local Authority.....	12	10
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	93	—

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year :

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	392
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	436
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit during the year	6
	(b)	Number at end of year	72
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	48

2.—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

(i) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during Year :

(a) Unfit houses ..... —

(b) Other houses ..... —

(ii) Number of persons displaced ..... —

Not in Clearance Areas : 1 house was demolished under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, 1 family of 4 persons being displaced.

3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—

(i)	Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2), Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	6
(ii)	Under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2), Housing Act, 1949	—
(iii)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	—

4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—

		By Owner	By Local Authority
(i)	After informal action by Local Authority	38	—
(ii)	After formal notice under :		
	(a) Public Health Acts	—	—
	(b) Housing Act, 1936	—	—
(iii)	Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	—	—

5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

Position at end of year :	No. of Houses	No. of Separate dwellings contained in column (1)
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation—		
(a) Under Section 2	—	—
(b) Under Section 3	—	—
(c) Under Section 4	—	—
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6	—	—

6.—PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—

	No of Houses.	No. of Occupants of houses in col. (1)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	—	—

7.—HOUSING ACTS, 1949-1954—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.—

Number of Schemes submitted :

(a) By private individuals to Local Authority ..... —
(b) By Local Authority to Ministry ..... —

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district.

(b) ICE CREAM.—Nineteen inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year and the results were satisfactory. All the premises in the District are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

(c) Meat.—There is one private slaughterhouse in the district which is inspected regularly.

The following table shows the number of Carcases inspected and condemned within the District :—

TABLE IV.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	150	—	—
Number inspected	—	—	—	150	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	—	—	—	2%	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticerosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the District at the end of the year:

Type of Business.	No.
General Grocers	34
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	4
Meat Shops	4
Confectioners	4
Fried Fish Shops	4
Sweets, Minerals and Ice Cream	8
Licensed Premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	40

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Type of Business.	No. registered at 31–12–57.	No. of Inspections of registered premises during year.
Ice Cream	11	19

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

86 cases of Measles were notified during the year, compared with 8 in 1956.

No cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, compared with 3 in 1956.

3 cases of Dysentery, 2 cases of Whooping Cough and Erysipelas and 1 case of Acute Poliomyelitis and Pneumonia were notified during the year.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the District during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1957, 102 pre-school and 2 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation and in addition 15 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—*Continued.*

102 pre-school children were immunised against Whooping Cough with Whooping Cough Vaccine only or a combined (Diphtheria-Pertussis or Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

During the year 81 pre-school and 177 school-children were immunised against Acute Poliomyelitis.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the District remains high.

TABLE V.

Notifiable Diseases During 1957.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2–	3–	4–	5–	10–20	20 & over	Un-known	Removed to Hospital
Measles	86	2	11	4	12	10	42	2	1	2	
Dysentery	3			1		1	1				
Whooping Cough	2	1				1					
Erysipelas	2								2		
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1							1			1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1								1		1
TOTALS	95	3	11	5	12	12	43	3	4	2	2

Distribution of Infectious Diseases over the several Parishes was as follows :—

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
DALTON :		
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1
HAIGH :		
Measles	7	
Whooping Cough	2	
		9
PARBOLD :		
Measles	1	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	
		2
SHEVINGTON :		
Measles	42	
Erysipelas	1	
		43
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Measles	36	
Dysentery	3	
Erysipelas	1	
		40
		95

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

CANCER.

9 Deaths, 6 Males and 3 Females, occurred in the year 1957, compared with 12 Deaths, 5 Males and 7 Females, in the year 1956.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

New Cases and Mortality During 1957 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES. Respiratory M.	NEW CASES. Respiratory F.	NEW CASES. Non-Respiratory M.	NEW CASES. Non-Respiratory F.	DEATHS. Respiratory M.	DEATHS. Respiratory F.	DEATHS. Non-Respiratory M.	DEATHS. Non-Respiratory F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	5	1	—	—	1	—	—

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctors, or by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47 :

No cases were dealt with during the year under Section 47 of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	29	34	3
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	6	6	—
TOTAL	35	40	3

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

Two cases of insufficient and two cases of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences (Section 7) were found and remedied.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK
(SECTIONS 110 AND 111).

The number of out-workers in the August List required by the above Sections was Nil.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.